

teachers \$89.13. For such meager salaries men and women cannot afford to put themselves into the long and expensive training necessary for the best equipment for this delicate and difficult work of teaching. The State may supply the best opportunities that the age affords for the training of the teachers, but, as long as the rank and file of the teachers receive such meager salaries, these opportunities will be beyond their reach and they must inevitably divide their attention between the service of two masters to make even a bare living. As long as they must work at some other business for six or eight months of the year, and at the business of school-teaching for only four or five months, they can scarcely hope to become professional and masterful teachers. The teacher who does something else eight months of the year for a living and teaches school four months of the year for extra money must continue to be more of something else than of a teacher.

With short school terms, small salaries, poor school-houses, and other conditions adverse to success, we cannot hope to command and retain first-class talent in this business of teaching the rural schools, however good or however accessible the opportunities for improving teachers may be made. We must, in the outset, face the cold business truth that, as the South comes more and more rapidly into her industrial and agricultural heritage, and the channels of profitable employment multiply, the best men and women in the profession of teaching cannot be retained in it, and little inducement will be offered to other men and women of ambition, ability and promise to enter it unless the compensation for the teacher's service is made somewhat commensurate with that offered in other fields of labor. As long as the annual salary paid the teacher who works upon the immortal stuff of mind and soul is less than that paid the rudest workers in wood and iron, less than that paid the man that shoes your horse or plows your corn or paints your house or keeps your jail, the best talent cannot be secured and kept in the teaching profession,